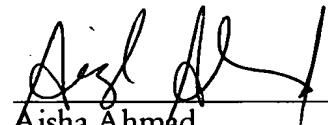


As indicated, all documents are in English and therefore, no statement of relevance is required. Also, since the present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits, no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(b) is required.

The Examiner is requested to consider the attached documents in connection with the above-identified application and to return a copy of Form PTO-1449 to the Applicants with the Examiner's initials in the spaces provided.

Submission of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission by the Applicants as to the materiality of the attached documents to the application, nor do the Applicants waive any right to challenge the validity of the documents as prior art should such action be deemed appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Aisha Ahmad
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 47,381

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036-2680
(202) 659-9076

Dated: April 12, 2001